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Letter, 1958 June 14, Fritz Marti to Hadley E. Watts

Fritz Marti

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June 14, 1958

Mr. Hadley E. Watts,
Executive Head,
Washington Township Schools,
Box 56,
Centerville, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Watts:

Referring to our recent conversation, I am putting before you in writing our request with regard to the special course in physics you are going to offer at the Centerville High School.

We have two excellently qualified seniors who are anxious to take this course which, we understand, is going to be given at an early morning hour. You mentioned eight possible participants of your own. We hope you will find it possible to let our two join this group.

Please let us know what arrangement would have to be made. We are ready either to have our two pay tuition to your township, or to offer here instruction in subjects we have and which, at this time, you do not happen to have, such instruction to be given in exchange.

For instance, it is now almost certain that we shall give an elementary course in Russian, to be taught by Professor Walter Sory of the University of Dayton. Thus we could offer that course in exchange for your physics.

A few other possibilities for this coming year are my combination course in solid and descriptive geometry, and a course in analytic geometry. Also the course in twentieth century history which Mrs. Marti and I shall give jointly. And we shall have a fairly advanced small group in French. I am fluent in Italian and could probably schedule a course, if desired.

I told you that, along with our three year course in world history up to 1900, I am giving a survey of the history of occidental art, which I have taught on the college level for twenty years. I have thousands of slides. If desired, I could come to Centerville for two hours a week and teach either art appreciation

or History of European art, either for highschool pupils, or for adults or for a mixed group of adults and young people, if you should be contemplating such "extension" courses.

It is my personal belief that communities like Centerville have great opportunities in organizing thoroughly adult study groups of academic subjects, be they of a tool character like languages or mathematics, or of a general cultural bent, like literature, history, philosophy. The latter is my own subject and, of course, I should be delighted to cooperate in any imaginable way. I still hope to live when America has her great Renaissance which is sure to come as soon as people discover that there is more to leisure time than games. The spirit needs its leisure too, and gets it in adult growth. And the Renaissance will start in small communities rather than in big cities.

I want to take this opportunity to put in written words our deep appreciation of the cordial welcome we found in this neighborhood, and of the sincere and realistic cooperation which you and your Board have given us. We want to reciprocate as best as we can.

Very sincerely yours,

Fritz Marti